

## Sugar/Hard Maple

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|----------------------|---|
| <b>Genus/species</b> | <i>Acer saccharum</i>   |
| <b>Family</b>        | Aceraceae   |
| <b>Distribution</b>  | <b>Eastern US</b> Minnesota eastward to Maine<br>Maine southwestward to W North Carolina<br>W North Carolina westward to E Kansas<br>E Kansas northward through E Iowa to Minnesota |

**Comments** Sugar Maple is widely planted as an ornamental. It likes rich, well-drained soils. It is tapped for its sweet sap from which syrup and sugar are made. The leaf is the inspiration for the Canadian Maple Leaf emblem. Flowers form in the spring and the paired seeds ripen during the summer.

Closely-related species include the Black Maple (*Acer nigrum*) of the Midwest, the Bigtooth Maple (*Acer grandidentatum*) of the Rocky Mountain area, the Southern Sugar Maple (*Acer barbatum*) and the Chalk (Whitebark) Maple (*Acer leucoderme*).

